



# ***COMMITTEE of the WHOLE***

## ***CITY COUNCIL***

**MINUTES**  
**May 2, 2011**  
**5:00 P.M.**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

V. Spencer, S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Reed, J. Waltman, F. Acosta

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, F. Denbowski, C. Geffken, D. Kersley, H. Boyer, W. Heim, K. Kulp

Mr. Spencer called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

### **I. Summer Playground Programming**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she requested this Committee of the Whole for an update on the summer use of the City fieldhouses, recreation centers, and playgrounds.

Mr. Denbowski introduced Heather Boyer from Recreation.

Ms. Boyer distributed the recreation budget for part time wages. This information was reviewed.

Mr. McMahon arrived at this time.

Ms. Boyer explained that last summer the playground program was funded through the federal stimulus program and that she had no oversight in the interview and selection process. She stated that it was a challenging summer. She stated that the stimulus funding available this year is for 16 – 18 year olds only and that this age group is not appropriate to supervise children. She stated that the City summer program is unique and reputable but that it cannot be offered this summer due to financial and time constraints. She stated that the \$42,000 noted

in the budget for 2009, has been deleted in the 2010 and 2011 budgets. This funding paid for leaders at eight parks/playgrounds and covered staff costs only. This did include equipment and supplies.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the summer program was funded at a \$100,000 level in 2006.

Ms. Boyer explained that attendance has been down at the summer programs. She stated that the Reading School District summer enrichment programs dismiss at 1 pm. She noted that the City summer program would need changes and suggested that the programs run from 1 – 6 pm. She stated that a pilot program was run at Pendora Park last year from 1 – 6 pm and was very successful. She stated that parents want better supervision of their children at the programs.

Mr. Waltman questioned how much funding would be needed for the programs and how much time would be necessary to get it running for this summer. He noted that Council does not have time during the budget process to address this type of issue. He noted the importance of recreation. Ms. Boyer stated that to have a successful program distributed evenly throughout the City she should have programming at twelve parks. The program would begin the week of June 20 and she would need to interview and hire quickly.

Mr. Geffken suggested that Ms. Boyer address specifics at next week's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Reed questioned if the program could be realistically planned for this summer. Ms. Boyer stated that it could be if she would be able to start quickly.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how recreation brought in revenue. Ms. Boyer stated that it was through rentals of the fieldhouses, fields, pavilions, summer camp, etc.

Mr. Marmarou questioned where this revenue was deposited. Ms. Boyer stated that it is placed into the City's general fund.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Alvernia collects revenue for the use of the softball field at Angelica. Mr. Denbowski stated that he would review the lease agreement. Mr. McMahon stated that this is because Alvernia made the investment in the field improvements.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the City leased away that revenue. He stated that the City should have access to that income and to the field. He stated that this situation is similar to that at Egelman's field. Mr. Denbowski stated that Mr. Lubas has reviewed this information and feels that the lease agreement is being followed.

Mr. Marmarou suggested that revenue from the Angelica field rental be used to fund the summer programs.

Mr. Denbowski stated that revenue is also generated from Schlegel pool. He stated that recreation had \$136,000 in revenue in 2010.

Mr. Acosta questioned how the revenue was spent. Mr. Denbowski stated that it was placed in the general fund and used to cover City expenses.

Mr. Marmarou again suggested that this revenue be used to fund the summer program.

Mr. Denbowski suggested that funds be reallocated from the CDBG budget to fund the summer program.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the use of rec centers during the summer. Ms. Boyer stated that the rec centers are open September through May from 3:30 – 8 pm. She stated that there are three rec centers – 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce, 11<sup>th</sup> & Pike and Pendora.

Mr. Waltman noted the need for realistic figures at the next meeting. He noted the need to find funding for this programming. He stated that the City has made large investments in its parks and that they should be used by many.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the summer program at Pendora Park. Ms. Boyer stated that the program at Pendora Park is funded by CDBG and will be open this summer. She stated that the amount allocated by CDBG is unknown due to State and Federal changes. Mr. Denbowski stated that recreation will receive the funds as budgeted. He stated that if changes are needed, they will be made elsewhere.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the update next week include City funding sources and outside funding sources available.

Mr. Spencer suggested that the Reading School District be contacted as he believed the summer enrichment programs are changing. Ms. Boyer stated that she would verify their summer programming.

Mr. Waltman questioned the Olivet project at Pendora Park. He stated that the City should remove any zoning obstacles. He noted that this project should not be impeded.

Mr. Spencer stated that lawyers are reviewing the zoning issues. He stated that Olivet will need to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Denbowski stated that the park is zoned preservation but that the building of the current fieldhouse sets a precedent to build in the park.

Mr. Waltman noted the need for the City to support the program if Olivet is willing to invest in the park.

Mr. Spencer noted the need for Olivet to design a building appropriate for this park and to have a successful capital campaign before work begins.

Ms. Kelleher stated that the Council office has received copies of the deeds for the park which state that it must be used only as a park and playground and that if it is used for any other purpose it would revert to the heirs of the donor.

It was suggested that Pendora be discussed as a separate topic at a future meeting. Mr. Spencer suggested holding a Committee of the Whole on May 16. Mr. Younger stated that he would be able to review the documents and have an opinion prepared for May 16.

Mr. Denbowski stated that a building was already placed there so that zoning should not be an issue. Ms. Kelleher described the public versus private issue with a City building versus a private, non-profit building.

Mr. Denbowski stated that Olivet does not turn youth away because of an inability to pay the membership fee. He stated that Olivet was told that they would need to address zoning and planning issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Linda A. Kelleher, CMC*  
City Clerk